

Group IV: Claims 9 and 10, drawn to a microorganism which has acquired a purine nucleoside-producing ability because of blockage of a reaction branching from purine nucleoside biosynthesis and leading to another metabolite;

Group V: Claims 11 and 12, drawn to a microorganism which is enhanced in purine nucleoside-producing ability by weakening of incorporation of a purine nucleoside into cells of the microorganism; and

Group VI: Claim 13, drawn to a method for producing a purine nucleoside by fermentation comprising culturing a microorganism.

In addition, the Office is requiring the election of a single disclosed species of enzymes from the following: succinyl-adenosine, monophosphate synthase, purine nucleoside phosphorylase, adenosine deaminase, inosine-guanosine kinase, guanosine monophosphate reductase, 6-phosphogluconate dehydrase, phosphoglucose isomerase, adenine deaminase, and xanthosine phosphorylase.


Applicants elect, with traverse, Group VI, Claim 13, for further prosecution. In addition, Applicants elect, with traverse, phosphoglucose isomerase as single disclosed species, for further prosecution. Claims 1, 9 and 10 read on the elected species.

This application is a 371 of international application PCT/JP98/03239, filed July 17, 1998, and is properly subject to restriction only under the PCT rules. As noted in MPEP §1895.01(D), restriction practice under 35 U.S.C. §121, as it applies to national applications submitted under 35 U.S.C. §111(a), is not applicable to a national stage application such as this one. Applicants respectfully point out the PCT administrative instructions in MPEP, Annex B, Part 1, which provide direction on restriction practice under the PCT rules. The Office has not made out a proper case of restriction under the PCT rules, and the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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